



Bòrd Stiùreadh na h-ÀGOFR

Miosachan Oifigeal na h-ÀGOFR 2015

Official Calendar of Avante Gaelic Obscurist Folk Rock 2015

Am Faoilleach / January 2015



2012 2013 2014-2015 sees the 112th 113th 114th-115th anniversary of justifiably neglected Stornoway poet Calum Ossian Valtos Ebenezer (C.O.V.E.) Macleod Nicolson. A major celebration of his life and work – originally planned for his birthday in 2000 but shelved due to his untimely demise – will finally go ahead this year, as Bòrd Stiùreadh na h-AGOFR declare 2012-2013 2014- 2015 “Bliadhna a' Chove”.

C.O.V.E was born in 1/1/1900 and died on 1/1/2000 (the only known fatality of the Millennium Bug) after an eventful life as a scholar, WWI soldier, pilot stowaway on the Titanic, adventurer, Home Guard officer, WWII spy, church elder in 7 different Presbyterian denominations, fomenter of ecclesiastical schisms, weaver, fisherman, poacher, gamekeeper, councillor, and 4-crown-drinking Stornoway worthy.

As a serious writer, C.O.V.E. had no time for “thon pope music” and in his later years was outraged by parallels between his poetry and the lyrics of AGOFR bands. However, his choice of parochial subject matter and the execrable quality of his writing had an undeniable influence on the industry, and Bòrd Stiùreadh na h-AGOFR have always viewed him as a pioneer of the genre.

C.O.V.E's 100th birthday celebrations were rather dampened by the tragic computer explosion in which he met his end. The exact cause remains unconfirmed, but some say the poet was recklessly attempting to spellcheck “Airidhbhruch” in Word 3.0 at the very instant the millennium ticked over, against all expert advice.

In 2012 2013 2014-2015 the Bòrd need to have some high profile events to justify their continued existence, and they couldn't be bothered thinking up anything new - so they've dusted off the unused “Bliadhna a' Chove” plans from 2000. The Bòrd will be sponsoring a number of high-profile projects and events throughout the year to celebrate this forgotten poetic cheniuss, probably.

The Dun Ringles had intended to record a concept album based on a cycle of C.O.V.E's poems, (a bit like an even more ruppish version of thon thing the W*t*r*b*ys did with WB Y****s), but they've since lost interest and can't be bothered finishing it. Nevertheless, the Bòrd hopes to release it in 2015 anyway, as a Deluxe Box Set featuring unfinished and unstarted rarities, gaps, music with no words, words with no music and bonus silences. There's no money for this at the moment but the Bòrd hopes that C.O.V.E's devotees will rally round and contribute up front, in a process known as Crowdfunding.

An early Gazette Photo of C.O.V.E. Macleod Nicolson Writing Poems in his Loomshed, c1932

Àm Faoilleach / January 2015 ~						
La na Sàbaid Sun	Òl-Luain Mon	Òl-Màirt Tue	Òl-Ciadaoin Wed	Òl-Ardaoin Thu	Òl-h-Aoine Fri	Òl-Sathairne Sat
				1 Bliadhna Mhath Ur. Birth of the poet Calum Ossian Valtos Ebenezer Macleod Nicolson (1900) Death of the poet Calum Ossian Valtos Ebenezer Macleod Nicolson (2000)	2	3 4-year 2 years late, Bòrd Stiùreadh na h-AGOFR initiates "Bliadhna a' CHOVE", a year celebrating the 113 th 114 th anniversary of the birth of Stornoway poet Calum Ossian Valtos Ebenezer Macleod Nicolson.
4 2002 – The Guireans write and record "Alasdair Mackay is God – Sorry, Bod" in an afternoon, and still have time to go home for their tea and go back up town for a pint.	5	6	7 Turfin' wars break out as the Point peat season begins; Assorted Rubhachs dash to the moor and fight each other for the best banks.	8	9	10
11	12	13	14	15 Ronnie Van Zant's Birthday	16	17
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
25 Willie Burns night – inhabitants of Newton toast J*hn H*nry B*nham with Jack Daniels and perform the Address to the Ford Mustang.	26	27	28 Guireans Manager Coinneach's 52nd Birthday. (His 103 rd for tax purposes).	29	30	31 Year of the Sheep begins (China. Also everywhere outside the Cattle Grid)

<http://www.wincalendar.com/2011-Word-Calendar.htm>

An Gearran / February 2015



30 Years of B*gie Goes to Bennadrove

It's 30 years since the Guireans tried to jump on the mid-80s monster pop single bandwagon with 1985's "B*gie Goes to Bennadrove".

This was an era when the record industry was at its financial peak, with record labels pouring millions of dollars into super-glossy studio overproduction, massively expensive promo videos, movie tie-ins and ridiculous PR hype.

Guireans manager Coinneach had observed the massive sales achieved by the likes of Frankie Goes to Hollywood and decided it was time for the band to up their production values... although obviously without spending any actual fleekkeen money.

So it was that the Guireans found themselves in a proper recording studio for the first time. To this day it's not clear how Coinneach got them into Noel Eadie's Croft Recordings in Tong for an afternoon, but the fact that the cove himself was nowhere to be seen suggests Coinneach probably picked the lock. Also nobody could work the controls, so the 2 songs the band did that day were actually recorded on their usual cr*p assette recorder. Trevor Horn slept easy that night.

The rest of "Bogie" was recorded in the usual shambolic manner at the Dead Olac brothers' sitting room in Sandwick and in Huggan's kitchen in Goathill – which is easy to tell from the variety of utensils pressed into service as percussion.

Aside from its flirtation with world-class 80s production values, "Bogie" was notable for introducing 2 new Guireans – Hank The Yank and Neil Hippy. "Bogie" also saw Coinneach himself perform with the Guireans for the first time since his mortifying Midge of Rock 83 appearance playing 'drums' on a toilet bowl.

For the full story on this classic AGOFR album, go to:

http://www.guireans.com/Guireans_msn/tapeography/bogie_goes_to_bennadrove_1985

B*gie Goes to Bennadrove – 1985.

~ Àn Gearran/February 2015 ~						
La na Sàbaid Sun	Òl-Luain Mon	Òl-Màirt Tue	Òl-Ciadain Wed	Òl-Ardain Thu	Òl-h-Aoine Fri	Òl-Sathairne Sat
1 Groundhog Day (USA) The Guireans announce that their long awaited album "J&E's Democracy" is nearly ready. Again. (Sandwick)	2	3	4	5	6	7
8	9	10 Harris Tweed found in Harris	11	12	13	14 St Valentine's Day. Don't miss the sale on Ewe Rolls and Pedigree Tup Mix at the Crofters'. If you didn't get it yesterday you're in fleekien trouble.
15	16 New Stornoway/Ullapool Ferry "Loch Seaforth" starts sometime around now, maybe.	17	18	19	20	21
22	23	24	25	26	27 Last day for Rubhachs to take their peats home.	28

Am Màrt / March 2015



Derelict Tweed Mills of Old SY

It's sad to take a stroll through the old industrial heartlands of Stornoway and to see the many derelict buildings which once housed the Mills which churned out the famous Harris Tweed. At its height, the Harris Tweed industry was delivered by over 100 mills, all located within a square mile of Stornoway known as the Tweed Mile. It is widely accepted that the actual word 'mill' came into everyday use due to a misunderstanding between an Ordnance Survey map maker and an old Stornoway cove. The OS surveyor pointed to the Tweed Mile and asked the old cove 'What's that?', and thought the old fellow said 'It's a Tweed Mill'. By the time the mistake had been realised, the term had already been added to the maps.

Each Tweed Mill had its own unique take on the type of tweed produced. It's common knowledge nowadays that Harris Tweed is produced in a 'Herringbone' pattern, but back in the day each firm produced their own patterns.

Some versions such as the Gugabone pattern didn't last long as it tending to make (non Niseach) people violently sick. The Kipperbone pattern came complete with actual real fish bones stuck all over the chacket to try and recreate the authentic 'getting a fish bone stuck in your throat' effect; Salmonbone pattern chackets kept getting nicked by Balallan coves.

Some of Stornoway's Derelict Tweed Mills, yesterday, as not mentioned in the Òun Rìngles' "No Room for a Loom"

~ Àm MÀRƒ / MARCH 2015 ~						
La na Sàbaid Sun	Ɔ1-Luain Mon	Ɔ1-MÀIRƒ Tue	Ɔ1-Ciadaoin Wed	Ɔ1-Àrdaoin Thu	Ɔ1-h-Àoine Fri	Ɔ1-Sàthuirne Sat
1	2	3	4	5	6 Lardi Gras – The Legendary Non-existent AGOFr festival (Dunky's House)	7 Scalpay Orduighean begin - Expect the poshest wine and wafers on the communion circuit.
8	9	10 End of 2013/14 Poaching Season (River Creed)	11 Start of 2015/5 Poaching Season (River Creed)	12	13 Scalpay Orduighean begin - Expect the poshest wine and wafers on the communion circuit.	14
15	16	17 1830 – Original Lewis Chessmen unearthed in Harris (but nicked by some Uigeach)	18	19	20 Kinloch Orduighean begin – beware of celebratory gunfire (again)	21
22	23 British Summer Time begins. Clocks go forward. One less hour in bed, for fleeke's sake.	24	25	26	27 Bac Orduighean begin - Public appearance by Take Vat(isker) in the Fr** Ch*rch Car Park, 3pm, miming to a tape of their hit "Bac for G*d".	28
29 British Summer Time begins. Summer? That'll be fleekeen right.	30 Fleekeen Clapton's Birthday, man. Agree vigorously with everything J*e Ell**t says about him if you want to keep all your teeth until the 31st.	31	Notes:			

An Giblean / April 2015



Matheson Road – Cradle of AGOFR?

Matheson Road is Stornoway's most exclusive neighbourhood, (at least until you get to the ruppish end near Ch*rlie B*rley's). A broad leafy avenue of Victorian mansions named after the wing-collared opium pedlar who owned Lewis in the mid 19th Century, it's where you'll find the residences of Stornoway's business, professional and cultural elite – the movers, shakers, wheelers and dealers who haven't been caught yet.

A towering gothic pile near the good end is the lair of AGOFR Tycoon and Sinister Pop Svengali CJ Mitchell (83), the man credited with inventing the term "Avante Gaelic Obscurist Folk Rock". From a mouldering attic room in the West tower, Mitchell (78) has run his shadowy Tape Records empire since the late 70s, plotting the careers and downfalls of his manufactured boy band proteges, from Zing-Pop to the Dun Ringles.

While there is little dispute that Mitchell (67) invented the *term* AGOFR, most scholars dismiss his claims to have invented the musical form itself. Many (ie the Guireans) would say that Mitchell was simply latching onto and marketing a sub-standard version of a genre pioneered elsewhere (ie in Sandwick) by other artistes (ie the fleekeen Guireans).

Mitchell, however, has orchestrated a 36-year campaign of hype and spin to convince the world that Matheson Road is where it all began. The PR battle is expected to escalate in 2015, as Bòrd Stiùreadh na h-AGOFR seek a suitable location for their new multi-pound Avante-Gaelic Heritage Centre and Hall of Shame, a facility Mitchell is determined to secure for himself.

Matheson Road has a number of other AGOFR connections – local resident Innes 'Fabster' Morrison had his career as a proper rock promoter irretrievably damaged by his decision to let the Lechends of AGOFR play in the beer tent at Sounds in the Grounds 2009; elderly punk rocker Kiwi from the Bruce Wayne Band plays in Edinburgh garage combo Johnny and the Deadbeats with Dead Olac Jr from the Guireans; and of course there's the Trading Post (see July)

Matheson Road at the Coathill Road Junction - Home of the Tòime Òr

~ Àn Cìoblean/Àpril 2015 ~						
La na Sàbaid Sun	Òl-Luain Mon	Òl-Màirt Tue	Òl-Ciadaoin Wed	Òl-Àrdaoin Thu	Òl-h-Àoine Fri	Òl-Sathairne Sat
			1 Latha na Gogaireachd April Fool's Day. (National Holiday of Airidhbhrùach)	2 April Fool's Day again (Airidhbhrùach – cos one day's not enough)	3	4
5 Easter (Western Christianity)	6 No Housework Day (USA and Ge*rdie Golidy's)	7	8	9	10	11
12 Easter (Orthodox)	13 Ritchie Blackmore's Birthday. Public Holiday (Wattie's House)	14 Easter (Fr*e Ch*rch Continuing)	15	16	17 Easter (Fr*e Pr*sbyteri*n)	18
19 Easter (R*formed Pr*sbyt*rian)	20	21 Easter (Fr*e Ch*rch)	22	23 Feast of St George – Patron Saint of craahft shops and keeping Llamas in places that aren't South A fleekeen merica, where they fleekeen well should be.	24	25 Easter (APC)
26	27	28	29	30	Notes:	

An Céitean / May 2015



Portnaguran – AGOFR Village of the Year 2015?

In May 2015 Bòrd Stiùradh na h-AGOFR will be launching its new “AGOFR Village of the Year” competition.

Each year, villages throughout the Outer Hebrides, and even bits of Stornoway, will strive to convince the Bòrd's judges that they're more Avante Gaelic than everywhere else.

The winning village will receive a large grant from the Bòrd, to help it make AGOFR-related improvements in local schools. This will include essential replacement of digital recording suites with a broken cassette player, detuning and string removal from instruments in school music departments and free distribution of knackered chanter's to all eligible children whether they fleekeen well like it or not. In the wider community, funding will also be available for making more holes in fences so sheep can get out, for improving the growth of rushes, and for the increased cultivation of traditional rusty vehicles at the roadside – a sight that has sadly become all too rare in recent years.

The Bòrd are still not clear on the exact criteria to be applied in deciding the winner, but it'll probably be something to do with who enters and what bribes they're prepared to offer.

Strangely the Bòrd have yet to receive any applications, but they're hopeful that at least one village is quietly planning to put its hat in the ring. Why else would Portnaguran - “Port of the Guireans” - have craftily named itself after AGOFR's top band? Not only that, but in 1952 Portnaguran acquired a fake Viking ship wreck – clearly a forward-looking tribute to the Dun Ringles' Scandinavian-influenced “Flang Your Doodle” LP from 50 years later



Summer in Scenic PORTNAGUIRAN (clockwise from top left) - The Pier, The Fake Viking Shipwreck, A Shed, A Panoramic Ruòhach Vista

~ Àn Céitean/May 2015 ~						
La na Sàbaid Sun	Òl-Luain Mon	Òl-Màirt Tue	Òl-Ciadin Wed	Òl-Ardoin Thu	Òl-h-Aoine Fri	Òl-Sathairne Sat
					1	2
3	4 May Day. 95th Congress of the People's Soviet (Ionad Stoodie, Garrabost)	5	6	7 UK General Election. CJ Mitchell (87) to stand for the Western Isles AGOFR party seeing he's in London anyway.	8	9
10	11	12	13	14	15	16
17 Norway National Day. Public Holiday (Port of Ness, Skigersta, Adabroc, Eorpoie, Sula Sgeir). But no celebrating, seeing it's the Sabbath	18	19 Birthday of Gordon "Mod" Macleod from the Guireans. The customary scooter rally and pitched battle with the rockers will take place at the Braighe car park and toilets	20	21	22 Morrissey's Birthday : (Day of Vague Dissatisfaction and Yearning - Innes the Post's House)	23
24	25	26	27	28	29 John F Kennedy's Birthday. His twin brother was born 4 days later, due to a long waiting list at the Lewis Hospital (See June 2)	30
31	Notes:					

An t-Ogmhios / June 2015



Canals of Stornoway

Fleek off Venice with your Grand Canal and your Rialto bridge. And the same to you, Amsterdam with your Kaisergracht and fleekeen Prinsengracht. Up to now, Stornoway has lagged a bit behind other major European cities when it comes to promoting the magic and romance of its picturesque waterways, but for those in the know, the canals of Old SY are a hidden gem.

To the untrained eye they might just look like clogged-up old drains full of ruppish, but in their time these aquatic highways were traversed by all manner of vessels - puffers from the Tolmie Terrace Duff Works idling along the Suet Canal, opium clippers racing each other from the Castle Grounds to Tolsta along the famous Stornoway Ship Canal, and enormous barges transporting prime quality mehhhags from North Street to Steinish through the Sandwich Sheep Canal.

Stornoway's canal network has developed over many centuries, with all sorts of bleigeards adding bits to it for their own purposes. From Niseach Vikings wanting to sail their longships into town without having to go round Point, to the 17th century Dutch fishing magnates who dug the immense Herringracht to link the harbour to the Gut Factory, to the top-hatted engineering giants of the Industrial Revolution, everybody's had a hand in building the network of waterways that surround the town today.

To find out more about the fascinating development of Stornoway's canal network, check out the scholarly article on the Made Up History of Stornoway's website once somebody gets around to writing it.

Waterways of Stornoway - the Suet Canal, the Panamanderson Road Canal, the Stornoway Ship Canal and the Sandwich Sheep Canal

~ Àn τ-Ogmhios/June 2015 ~						
La na Sàbaid Sun	Òi-Luain Mon	Òi-Màirt Tue	Òi-Ciadaoin Wed	Òi-Ardaoin Thu	Òi-h-Aoine Fri	Òi-Sathuirne Sat
	1	2 Calum Kennedy's birthday, 4 days after his twin (See 29 May). Public Holiday (South Lochs and Iain Shaw's house)	3 Anniversary of Franz Kafka's Death. National Day of Gloom (Inaclete Road)	4	5 Another Hat Sale (Murdo Maclean's)	6 More Orduighean (Stornoway)
7	8	9	10	11	12	13
14	15	16	17 1 st batch of Lewis's Ab*ainn D**rg malt whisky reaches maturity. AGOFR Lechends' offer to record an advertising chingle to the tune of "Airidhbhruach" is ignored.	18 Ramadan begins. Fleek's sake – it only gets dark here for about an hour.	19	20 Kontrast Day. All Citizens of SY aged 40-65 must report to the Caber car park at 11:55pm and sing "I Recall A Gypsy Woman" slightly out of tune in a dodgy fake American accent
21	22	23	24 1314 – Battle of Bannockburn.. 1964- Battle of Beannagburn (Stornoway's 1 st Cailleachs' Lib protest of the 60s).	25	26	27
28	29	30	Notes:			

An Iuchar / July 2015



Cyclefoot – One More from the Trading Post

This month sees the joyous celebration of the 32nd Anniversary of the launch of seminal AGOFR album **'One More From The Trading Post'** by the much missed Stornoway band **Cyclefoot**. Cyclefoot were first formed in 1982 by Eddie, Rev and Seoras in the Scout Hall one night - the band's name a very bad pun on popular beat combo 'Motörhead'.

Eddie and Seoras left to join equally bad AGOFR band Black Stan, but Rev retaliated by recruiting three of Black Stan, namely Wilbur, Pennies and Eedjit. This second Cyclefoot line-up appeared as headliners at the 1982 Midges of Rock, where they performed such classics as 'Not Quite Smoke on the Water' and 'Conceited'. Roddy Huggan & Bod from the Guireans, and C.J. and Wattie from Zing Pop 'helped' on several sessions.

Trouble set in when Cyclefoot performed at the 1982 Winter Feis in the Scout Hall; Wilbur and Rev left, leaving Eedjit and Pennies to carry on. However they decided to give up and gave the name back to Wilbur and Rev. Roddy Huggan then joined full-time. As they recorded their first album Wilbur got fired (or left depending on who you spoke to), but all three featured on the album **'One More from the Trading Post'**. The band also had two bootlegs, namely **'Ossian at the Controls'** and **'Careful with that Pneumatic Drill.'**

'Trading Post' was a semi conceptual album about a Stornoway shop & off-licence that served the local community for many years. The Trading Post's proximity to the densely wooded Castle Grounds offered plenty of cover for AGOFR stars heading off for a Bush Walk to Gallows Hill with their refreshments.

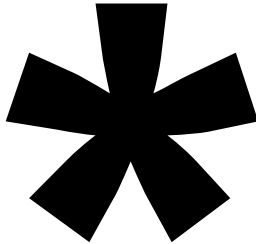
Roddy Huggan reformed "Roddy Huggan's Original Cyclefoot" in 2003 for an appearance at the Midges of Rock Festival, but only Wattie from the original members could be bribed to appear.

In 2004 Cyclefoot contributed a Smiths cover ("Heaven Knows I'm M*sery Now") to the AGOFR John Peel tribute EP "Margrave of the Moineach", but this lineup was just Wattie backed by a bunch of anonymous session musos that he'd borrowed from the Dun Ringles and the Guireans.

The Trading Post. Little changed since it inspired Cyclefoot's Lechendary 1983 Album, except it doesn't seem to be called the Trading Post any more. When did that fleekcen happen?

~ An t-Iuchar/July 2015~						
La na Sàbaid Sun	Òl-Luain Mon	Òl-Màirt Tue	Òl-Ciadain Wed	Òl-Ardain Thu	Òl-h-Aoine Fri	Òl-Sathairne Sat
			1	2	3	4 51 st Anniversary of B*gey getting slaughtered in Macs Imperial to celebrate the Yanks not having to pay any more tax to the Scalpay Common Grazings Committee.
5	6	7 B*b Dyl*n traces his roots to Ballantrushal	8	9	10	11
12	13	14	15 Heb Celt Festival Begins. Probably no AGOFR bands on the bill.	16	17	18
19 5th Anniversary of 1 st Sunday Sailing to Stornoway : High likelihood of it being Judgement Day too.	20 If it wasn't Judgement Day yesterday, carry on.	21	22 Don Henley's Birthday. Public Holiday (Eyeballs' House)	23	24	25
26	27	28	29	30	31	Notes:

An Lunasdal / August 2015



Censored Month

This month we celebrate censorship in Avante Gaelic Obscurist Folk Rock.

Since its earliest days AGOFR song titles, album titles and lyrics have been controversial... or would have been if anybody ever got to hear them.

Neighbours, friends, teachers, white settlers, teachers who are white settlers, local politicians and worthies have always been insulted, slandered and denigrated in AGOFR songs – sometimes for their actual or alleged deeds or eccentricities, but more often just because their name happened to provide AGOFR's talentless popsters with a convenient rhyme at the time.

In the 70s and 80s, AGOFR artistes could get away with this sort of thing safe in the knowledge that nobody would ever hear their material or even be aware of its existence. "Release" typically involved sticking the one cassette of a recording session in a drawer and forgetting about it, then probably taping the Top 40 over it. Live gigs were few, and normally attended only by the bands themselves (or whatever subset of band members could be bothered to turn up).

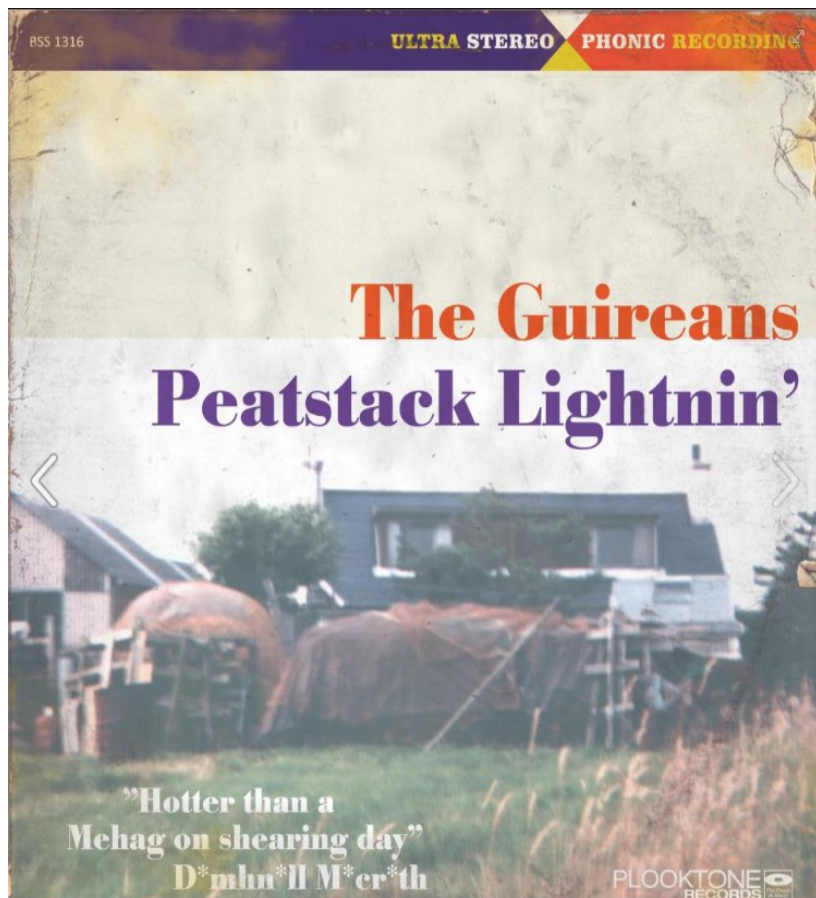
Since the advent of the internet, however, AGOFR bands need to be a bit more careful, chust in case somebody who isn't themselves accidentally stumbles across their stuff. Not only is today's material much less offensive, but the bands have applied a considerable amount of retrospective self-censorship to their back catalogues too. Nowadays, for example, the title of pretty much any G***rns album from the 1980s is just a collection of asterisks, from 1981's **** * right up to 1991's ***** *

This trend is becoming a concern to industry regulator Bòrd Stiùradh na h-AGOFR, who regard cheeky bleigeariness as one of the music's defining attributes. From 2015, therefore, the Bòrd will be applying a Minimum Offensiveness Threshold. AGOFR artistes in future risk losing their certification if they are insufficiently swearsy and/or fail to apply enough gratuitous insults to actual persons living and dead.

A Picture of **** * ****, Removed to Commemorate AG*FR's Cens*red Month

~ An Lùnasdal / August 2015 ~						
La na Sàbaid Sun	Òl-Luain Mon	Òl-Màirt Tue	Òl-Ciadain Wed	Òl-Ardain Thu	Òl-h-Aoine Fri	Òl-Sathairne Sat
						1 Stornoway Carnival (probably). Sleet, thunder lightning a Force 9 gale and one of them Stornados anticipated.
2	3	4	5	6 32 nd Anniversary of Midge of Rock 1983.	7	8 Rocky Sh*rpe from R*cky Sharpe & The Replays' Birthday (maybe). Big Session at John Allan's House.
9	10	11	12	13	14	15
16	17	18	19	20 Phil Lynott's Birthday. Stornoway bye-laws declaring "Whiskey in the Jar" compulsory for all bands playing inside the cattle grid passed on this day in 1974.	21	22
23	24	25	26	27	28	29
30	31 V*n Morrison's Birthday. The usual Guga with candles in it is dispatched by his granny in Ness. You'd be a grumpy bleigeard too if you got one of these every year.	Notes:				

An Sultain / September 2015



Peatstack Lightnin' : The Guireans' Lechendary Studio at Hitsville Sandwich

Naffer mind Sun Studios, 2120 South Michigan Avenue, Abbey Road or Mussel fleekkeen Shoals. Famous recording venues they may be, but they pale into insignificance beside the sitting rooms, spare bedrooms and sheep shelters in which the lechendary tracks of early Avante-Gaelic Obscurist Folk Rock were cut.

Celebrated among these are CJ's Attic on Matheson Road, the Valtos Outdoor Centre, Knock Studios and the world-class Grim Studios where Dun Ringles records are polished to a sparkle... but the first and greatest AGOFR studio of them all is in Sandwich. There, in the cold Winter of 1979, the Guireans crafted the fleekkeen awful "Pronounced Goo-thans", and they've continued to record ruppish in it ever since.

Hitsville Sandwich was a pioneering example of sustainability in rock, just like one of Richard Branson or Peter Gabriel's posh studios in the country (maan). Everything needed was sourced locally: The "studio" itself (in this case the Dead Olac brothers' sitting room) was kept warm by the peats from the very cruach you see in the picture. The band were sustained by chops from the sheep off the very croft you see in the picture, fed with hay from the very goc you see in the picture. Nearly all the "musicians" came from within a 150 yard radius so the only transport impact was John Allan's trip down from the Cearns on the Plasterfield Bus. The end result of a recording was always so ruppish that nobody ever wanted a copy – so the environmental cost of distribution was zero. If only modren studios were as responsible.

Find out more about the Guireans' early history and Hitsville Sandwich at: http://www.guireans.com/Guireans_msn/tapeography/tapeography.htm

Hitsville, Sandwich – Fake record sleeve by Frogaith Beag

~ Æn τ-Sultain/September 2015 ~						
La na Sàbaid Sun	Òl-Luain Mon	Òl-Màirt Tue	Òl-Ciadaoin Wed	Òl-Ardaoin Thu	Òl-h-Àoine Fri	Òl-Sathairne Sat
		1 Boxcar Willie's Birthday. Public Holiday (Leurbost)	2	3	4	5
6	7	8	9	10	11	12
13	14	15	16	17	18	19
20	21 David Coverdale's Birthday. A' ghiadh mhor.	22	23	24	25	26
27	28	29	30	Notes:		

An Damhair / October 2015



20 Years of Dances with Lobsters

Although not released until 1996, the Dun Ringles' penultimate pre-digital cassette-based album was recorded 20 years ago this month.

Marking a radical change with convention, and risking their AGOFR certification yet again, the Dun Ringhills (Or Dun Ringhills, or whatever the fleek they were called at the time) decided to record their fourth tape in the big city of Edinburgh, and in October 1995 Jason and Wattie came down from Stornoway and Robin came across from Glasgow and all crashed with Jon Dun Ringle and Trina.

Jon's father in law owned a video making company and Jon managed to scrounge some time in their proper professional type studio. The band still ended up recording the songs on their old MR300 4-track portastudio, but it was perched on top of some genuine high tech equipment, so it felt like the real deal.

By day, the band beavered away in the studio and at night ate lots of large meals in Jons house. After several days a work of art was in the bag and ready for release. However, Jon took ages getting the tapes copied and it wasn't actually released until May 1996.

The tape's name came about as a tribute to Jason's career as captain of a lobster boat in Harris. Jason also produced yet another stunning cover.

Life at the lobsters must have had a calming effect on Jason. This is probably the Dun Ringles' most mellow and laid-back album, with little of the usual shredding, riffage or geetar histrionics.

Serious record collectors will know that a very small number of copies of "Lobsters" were er.. pressed with "Sailing On the Suilven" and "Environ-mental" the wrong way round. If like us you're lucky enough to have one of these, you'll be excited to know that its market value is around 1000 times that of a 'correct' copy.

You will however be less excited to know that 1000 times fleek all is still fleek all.

The Dun Ringles' (or Dun Ringhills) Dances With Lobsters

~ Àn Dàmhair/October 2015 ~						
La na Sàbaid Sun	Òl-Luain Mon	Òl-Màirt Tue	Òl-Ciadin Wed	Òl-Ardain Thu	Òl-h-Aoine Fri	Òl-Sathairne Sat
				1	2	3 Thon Kippur. Traditional day for SY fish curers to atone for paying low prices, using poor quality sgadan and spraying them with toxic chemical dyes (Newton)
4	5	6	7	8	9	10
11 Do you think the fleekkeen spuds are going to lift themselves, you lazy bleigeard? You were chust as bad this time last year.	12	13	14	15	16	17
18	19	20 Anniversary of Skynynrd's Plane Crash – National day of Mourning (Outer Hebrides) Philomena Begley's Birthday. National Day of Celebration (Top corner of Plasterfield)	21	22 Smiths Shoe Shop found under ruins of Viking parliament.	23	24 Clocks go back. Extra hour in church.
25	26	27	28	29	30	31 Halloween. Tell you something - If the wee brats come round here with a Pumpkin they're getting fleek all. Is a turnip not good enough for kids nowadays?.

An t-Samhain / November 2015



The Fleekeen Ruppish Sandwich Gelly

Compared to the towering infernos staged by its more populous neighbours, Sandwich's bonfire on Guy Fawkes' night has always been a bit ruppish.

Each year, during the tyre wars that precede the 5th of November, Sandwich finds itself caught between the major powers of Plasterfield and Parkend. The plucky little Sandwich gang of 3 kids and a dog who fleeks off at the first sign of trouble is invariably overrun by innumerable legions of Plastics and/or Parkenders, often with advanced logistical support from some big coves and a van.

Sandwich's stash of tyres and other combustible materials is looted, and its meagre forces have little choice but to run home crying.

Things go well for Sandwich only on the rare occasions when the Plastics and Parkenders decide to raid at the same time, bump into each other at Nan Rob's corner and start scrapping amongst themselves.

In these good years, while the Great Powers are knocking the fleek out of each other, the Sandwich gang can sneak away and hide their tyres somewhere else. If the fighting goes on long enough they might even have time to nip up to Plasterfield and nick a few tyres from there as well.

But sadly this doesn't happen often - When 5th November comes, the skies to the NW and SE are normally lit up by the 300-tyre conflagrations of the neighbouring schemes, with their accompanying pyrotechnic extravaganzas. Meanwhile the Sandwich gang struggle to ignite a pathetic pyre consisting of a pram tyre, a fishbox (not so good since they went plastic) and half of last week's Gazette, accompanied by 2 bangers and a wet sparkler.

Massive Devastation in the East Street Common Grazings caused by last year's Sandwich gelly.

~ Àn τ-Samhain/November 2015 ~						
La na Sàbaid Sun	Òl-Luain Mon	Òl-Màirt Tue	Òl-Ciadin Wed	Òl-Ardain Thu	Òl-h-Aoine Fri	Òl-Sathairne Sat
1 4 Days Till Guy Fawkes : The Battery declares War on Columbia Place. But the're too far apart for anyone to bother.	2 3 Days Till Guy Fawkes: Plasterfield and Parkend declare war but decide they'll have it in Sandwich to avoid damage at home.	3 2 Days Till Guy Fawkes: Parkend begins air strikes on East Street, acting against alleged "Plasterfield mercenaries" in the area.	4 1 Day Till Guy Fawkes: Plasterfield forces cross the North Street border under the pretext of "liberating" tyres that have been "oppressed" by the Sandwick government.	5 Guy Fawkes: Parkend and Plasterfield have a big fight at Nan Rob's corner. While they're occupied, Sandwich nick all their tyres and have a record 800-tyre gelly. East St common grazings burnt to a crisp.	6 Tyre collecting for 2016 begins.	7
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
15	16	17	18	19 5 th Anniversary of Fr*e Ch*rch allowing hymns and musical instruments. Cl*ff R*chard & Frogaidh Beag to play a special rock n roll prayer meeting in the Seminary. Latha Dorc ga rìribh.	20	21
22 125 th Anniversary of the Pairc Deer Raid. Beware of Celebratory Gunfire (Balallan)	23 No special anniversary, but Beware of Gunfire (Balallan) anyway. Same goes for any other day.	24	25 Comhairle's Winter 2015/16 Ice Gritting Contract Starts	26 Comhairle's Winter 2015/16 Ice Gritting Contract Runs out of Money	27 Black Friday. Disturbances expected as cailleachs fighting over heavily discounted marags.	28
29 No special anniversary, but Beware of Gunfire (Balallan) anyway. Same goes for any other day.	30 St Andrew's Day. Nobody will notice, anywhere.	Notes:				

An Dúblachd / December 2015



AGOFR Xmas Tributes Down The Years.

Around the turn of the millenium, the fat cat accountants who run AGOFR's top record labels decided that there was a huge potential market for Avante-Gaelic Dead Pop Star Xmas Tribute EPs.

Sinister Tape Records supremo CJ Mitchell (86) and Ken "Coinneach" Livingstone - CJ's portly cash-crazed opposite number at Plook Records - figured that with so many popular musicians getting old, there was bound to be an increasing number of high profile demises each year. More and more grieving fans would seek solace in tastefully marketed Xmas AGOFR tributes to their heroes. The rival tycoons agreed to set aside their rivalries and cash in.

As a result the early 2000s saw a rash of these tribute EPs, cobbled together hastily by kid-on groups made up of press-ganged Tape and Plook 'musicians' including:

- **Bod Strummer & the Dun Guireaneros - Pronounced Roddy Huggan** - a tribute to the Clash and Lynyrd Skynyrd released in the year Joe Strummer passed away. Nobody from Lynyrd Skynyrd had actually died that year (for a change) but Coinneach and CJ reckoned that a Skynyrd tribute would always go down well in Lewis anyway.
- **Margrave of the Mòirteach – An AGOFR Tribute to the Peel** - released in the year of cutting edge DJ and chip shop magnate John Peel's demise. "Margrave" featured some of his favourite tracks including the Zing-Pop-tones' "Teenage Ticks", the Guireans "(Parkend) Industrial Estate" (featuring Watt E Smith on vocals) and "Heaven Knows I'm M*sery Now" (allegedly by Cyclefoot).
- **Coinneach & CJ's Accountants of Rock – Roddy Morrison Cashes In and Gets Evicted to Leòdhas** – Johnny Cash, Robert Palmer and Barry Manilow got seen off in this 2003 EP (although the band later realised it was Barry White, not Manilow, who was dead).
- **Sheep Purple - Hades for Sheep Purple In Knock**. - This wasn't a tribute EP at all: It was a concept EP of Deep Purple songs protesting about the iniquities of the first Sunday flights to Stornoway, including "Black Flight", "(Cheap) Flight On Time" and "Smoke on the Runway".

Suil air ais - AGOFR Xmas Tribute Eps of the Early 2000s

~ Àn Òbhlachd/December 2015 ~						
La na Sàbaid Sun	Òl-Luain Mon	Òl-Màirt Tue	Òl-Ciadain Wed	Òl-Ardainn Thu	Òl-h-Aoine Fri	Òl-Sathairne Sat
		1	2	3	4	5
6	7	8 1980 - Jimmy Petrie stages his own assassination to get out of the Guireans. Unfortunately nobody noticed due to events elsewhere.	9	10	11	12
13	14	15	16	17 4 th Anniversary of the death of Kim Jong Il, Dear Leader of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea. National day of Mourning (Point)	18	19
20	21	22 21 st Anniversary of Isles FM For 24 hours, normal service will be replaced by a special celebratory show: "AJK's Top 1000 Voiceovers 1994-2015"	23	24	25 Xmas Day. Huidh! Them oranges is chust for show! Leave them alone, ya wee bleigeard.	26 Suas an Fheamainn Day. Off down the Braighe to collect your year's supply of rotten seaweed in the middle of a Force 10 gale.
27	28	29	30	31 Oidche Challuinn (Hogmanay)	Notes:	

AGOFR Agus am Bòrd Stiùreadh.

Avante Gaelic Obscurist Folk Rock (AGOFR): An indigenous form of "music" unique to the Outer Hebrides of Scotland, and perhaps to the island of Lewis. AGOFR is characterised by its myopic and parochial lyrical subjects (sheep, peats, tractors, sgadan, getting the cuiream etc) and by its atrocious standards of performance and recording. It may be sung in Gaelic, Stornowaywegian (the patois of the capital's street urchins) or in Beurla Taobh Muigh a' Chattle Grid, the pidgin dialect adopted by the natives of the interior when dealing with their urban betters.

AGOFR was first identified as a musical form around 1979, with seminal artistes such as Zing-Pop and The Cuireans appearing independently in town and country. While Zing-Pop, Cyclefoot and most of the other groups of AGOFR's early period imploded in the early 80s, the Cuireans are still on the go today when they can be bothered. More recent AGOFR acts include the Dun Ringles, Sheep Purple, Coinneach & CJ's Accountants of Rock, The Lechends of AGOFR and Frogaigh Beag..

The industry has struggled on through the 80s, 90s, and 00s in the face of general apathy and ignorance, both in the wider community and among its own practitioners. However, with the massive EuroTube success of the Lechends of AGOFR's "Àiridhòhruach" performance at Sounds in the Grounds 2009, the "Dun Ringles" SITC 2011 appearance, and Frogaigh Beag's ongoing attempts to sneak AGOFR content into the Stornoway Primary Xmas Concert - the year ~~2010 2011 2012 2013 2014~~ 2015 could well see AGOFR influences begin to seep into mainstream culture. There are rumours that One Direction have got the Cuiream and are about to split into One Direction (Continuing) and Not that Direction, This Direction. Pharrell Williams, anxious to avoid pigeonholing after the massive success of "Happy", is allegedly remixing his cover of "s Fhada Leam an Oidche Gheamhraidh" for release in early 2015. And portly crooner Sam Smith, knowing the hype can't last, is said to be planning to get his money out of showbiz, move to Parkend and re-establish his great-uncle's Zip-a-Cola factory.

Bòrd Stiùreadh na h-AGOFR exists to regulate the industry and make sure all this nonsense doesn't get out of hand. We take pride in ensuring that the AGOFR 'music' stays true to its roots by remaining poorly conceived and executed, meaningless to all but a few amadans on a rock in the Atlantic, and unlistenable even to those who make it. We are determined to promote links between AGOFR and other poor quality indigenous musical forms across the globe, and will spare no expense undertaking fact finding missions for this purpose, provided they're somewhere nice and we don't have to go there on the fleckeen ferry.

www.cuireans.com.

Front cover – An airidh out the Beinn a' bhuna road. Taken long before the one thon cove from the B*zzcocks had exhibited in the Lanntair in 2013.